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## San Jose district gets first-class science lab

Students in the **East Side Union High School District** with a hankering for hands-on science now have a place to try it: the **Advanced Science Research Facility**.

The lab at **Oak Grove High School** was designed for project-based learning that requires sophisticated equipment and expertise not often available in high schools. Students can work on projects involving precision massing, molecular analysis and spectral analysis with the help of an on-site instructor.

The lab was funded by the **Synopsys Outreach Foundation**.

At an opening celebration last month, Superintendent **Joe Coto** thanked the lab's movers and shakers: foundation chairman **Rich Goldman**, State Board of Education member **Susan Hammer**, and Rep. **Mike Honda**, D-San Jose. Coto credits Synopsys' support with boosting science-fair participation in the district from 55 students to 2,300 students in four years.

**PHILANTHROPISTS:** Eighth-graders at the **Mid-Peninsula Jewish Community Day School** will be honored Thursday at the 15th annual **Philanthropy Day Awards** sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals at San Jose's Fairmont Hotel.

Last year as seventh-graders, students in this class gave away hundreds of dollars in gifts they received for their bar and bat mitzvahs, the Jewish ritual marking a child's passage to adulthood at age 13. They donated \$46,000, including matching gifts from philanthropists, to charitable causes they researched and selected themselves.

Mid-Peninsula Jewish Community Day School is based in Palo Alto, but its middle-school moved this year to a second campus in San Jose.

Teacher **Sue Schwartzman** started the project. Students have given away \$84,000 since 1999.

**SONG AND DANCE:** There's only one word for it -- and that's ``extravaganza'' -- when more than 400 students from **Castillero Middle School** put on their 14th annual music and dance show at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. This year's performance takes place at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21. Broadway performer **Paul Bryant** is the celebrity headliner.

Castillero is part of the **San Jose Unified School District's** performing-arts magnet program. The production is a labor of love that begins in the spring when teachers and parent volunteers begin planning the show, which features a wide range of music.

Students from local schools see the production in dress rehearsal the day of the show. Some tickets for the evening performance are available for \$17 and \$22 by e-mailing [Mary\\_Hopper@sjusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Mary_Hopper@sjusd.k12.ca.us).

**HOT-DOGGING:** OK, it's a shameless promotion for a commercial product, but anything goes for a school visit from the **Oscar Mayer Wienermobile!**

Every year, the company mounts a talent search for students to belt out ``The Oscar Mayer Wiener  
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Jingle," `` The Bologna Song" or `` The Spanish Jingle." The co-sponsor is **MENC: The National Association for Music Educators**.

The winning school from each state gets \$10,000 for its music program plus a visit from the world-famous Wienermobile. The grand prize winner gets \$15,000 and its students appear in an ad.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are eligible for the contest. A videotaped entry must be submitted by Feb. 14. For details, see [www.oscarmayer.com](http://www.oscarmayer.com) or call (800) OSCAR-KID.

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